

Message Text

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13

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01

L-03 RSR-01 (ADP) W

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R 270251Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9150

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: TEXTILES: TQ CLASSIFICATION OF SNORKEL JACKETS

REF SEOUL 4455

1. SUBSEQUENT TO TRANSMISSION OF REFTTEL, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MCI) AND KOREAN GARMENT EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS HAVE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT ISSUING VISAS FOR SHIPMENT OF SNORKEL JACKETS ORDERED BY PARK AVENUE OVERSEAS CORPORATION. WHILE BOTH MCI AND ASSOCIATION READILY ACCEPT DECISION OF BUREAU OF CUSTOMS THAT SAMPLE JACKET PRESENTED TO IT BY PARK AVENUE'S MAYER IS PROPERLY CLASSIFIED IN TQ 229, KOREAN OFFICIALS HAVE NOT SEEN SAMPLE, AND THEY BELIEVE JACKETS WAITING TO BE SHIPPED TO PARK AVENUE SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED IN TQ 240. BEGIN FYI: ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAS HAD CLASSIFICATION DIFFICULTIES IN PAST WITH BOTH KOREAN MANUFACTURER AND JAPANESE TRADING COMPANY INVOLVED IN THIS CASE, AND HE FINDS COMBINATION OF THESE TWO FIRMS IN SAME DEAL PARTICULARLY SUSPICIOUS, ESPECIALLY SINCE TRADING COMPANY REFUSES TO PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE TO ASSOCIATION THAT SAMPLE PROVIDED TO MAYER IS IDENTICAL TO JACKETS IN PROPOSED SHIPMENT. END FYI.

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2. KOREANS INDICATED THEY WILL ISSUE TQ 229 VISA FOR SHIP-

MENT IN QUESTION IF USG INSISTS, BUT THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO DO SO FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, IF SHIPMENT IS ULTIMATELY CLASSIFIED BY U.S. CUSTOMS AS TQ 240, LEGITIMATE KOREAN SHIPPERS OF TQ 240 MERCHANDISE WOULD THUS BE DEPRIVED OF QUOTA. MORE IMPORTANT, RECENT CLASSIFICATION CONFUSION AND RESULTING OVERSHIPMENTS HAVE MADE KOREAN RELUCTANT TO ISSUE VISAS IN UNCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. EMBOFF INFORMED ASSOCIATION THAT HE WOULD SEEK WASHINGTON ADVICE AS TO WHETHER, IN VIEW OF CIRCUMSTANCES, USG WILL INSIST THAT VISA BE ISSUED.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ISSUANCE OF VISA AT THIS POINT WOULD RUN COUNTER TO OUR LONG TERM OBJECTIVE OF SMOOTH OPERATION OF US-KOREA TEXTILE AGREEMENT. IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT OBTAIN FROM MAYER AND FORWARD TO EMBASSY SWATCH OF FABRIC FROM SAMPLE JACKET CLASSIFIED BY CUSTOMS AS TQ 229 MERCHANDISE. THIS COULD THEN BE COMPARED WITH FABRIC FROM JACKETS IN PROPOSED SHIPMENT AND DOUBTS OF KOREAN AUTHORITIES COULD BE RESOLVED.

4. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO DISCUSS FOREGOING WITH MAYER OF PARK AVENUE OVERSEAS CORPORATION.
HABIB

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